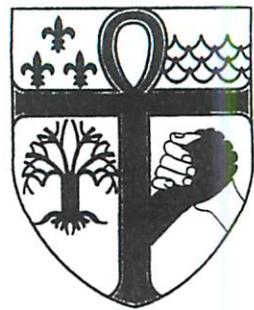


Norbertine Fathers and Brothers

Priory of St. Moses the Black

7100 Midway Road
Raymond, Mississippi 39154

Tel. (601) 857-0157 • FAX (601) 857-5076



March 15, 2016

U.S. Consulate General
Nonimmigrant Visa Section
United States Embassy
Abuja, Nigeria

RE: APPLICATION FOR R-1 NONIMMIGRANT VISA

1-129 Petition Approved (WAC-16-087-50035)

(Mr.) Valentine Okechukwu AKPA

(Roman Catholic Religious Candidate Novice (Religious Occupation))

Dear Sir or Madam:

I, Rt. Rev. E. Thomas DeWane, House Prior of *St. Moses the Black Priory* and authorized official of the Canons Regular of Premontre (Norbertine Fathers), execute this letter on behalf of Mr. Valentine Okechukwu AKP A (Fr. Akpa) so he may apply for an R-1 Visa and serve as a Roman Catholic Religious Candidate Novice (Religious Occupation) in our religious community. The 1-129 Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker filed by the Norbertine Fathers on behalf of Mr. Akpa has been approved by USCIS, granting him R-1 Status for the period of March 2, 2016 to September 1, 2018 (WAC-16-087-50035). This letter is provided in conjunction with the original 1-797, Notice of Action, 1-129 Approval Notice to demonstrate an offer of employment.

Mr. Akpa meets all of the eligibility requirements for an R-1 Visa and R-1 Status pursuant to 22 C.F.R. §41.58:

- I. Mr. Akpa has been a member of the Roman Catholic Church since his baptism into the Roman Catholic Faith as an infant on April 28, 1981 (more than the two years required).
- II. The Norbertine Fathers is a nonprofit, religious organization in the United States within the religious denomination, the Roman Catholic Church.
- III. Mr. Akpa seeks to enter the United States as an R-1 Religious Worker at the request of the Norbertine Fathers solely for the purpose of pursuing his Religious Vocation as a Roman Catholic Postulant Novice (Religious Occupation) for a temporary period of time.
- IV. Mr. Akpa will not work in any other capacity than as a Roman Catholic Postulant Novice (Religious Occupation) for the Norbertine Fathers.

Therefore, the Norbertine Fathers is requesting that Mr. Akpa be permitted to enter the United States for a temporary period of time to pursue his Religious Vocation as a Roman Catholic Postulant Novice (Religious Occupation). The Norbertine Fathers will provide for Mr. Akpa's full care and maintenance throughout his time in the U.S. I respectfully request that you grant Mr. Valentine Okechukwu Akpa an R-1 Visa for the maximum time allowed according to him Form 1-797 Notice of Action and the Visa Reciprocity Schedule.

EXHIBIT A-1

If you would like more extensive information about Mr. Akpa and the Norbertine Fathers, please see the sponsor letter in Mr. Akpa's approved I-129 petition packet. If there are questions regarding his R-1 status as approved by USCIS, or the issuance of the R-1 visa, please contact our immigration attorney, Nicole E. Bonjean, with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. at 301-565-4811 or NBonjean@cliniclegal.org.

Sincerely,



Rt. Rev. E. Thomas DeWane

Prior

St. Moses the Black Priory

Canons Regular of Premontré (Norbertine Fathers)